

LONE STAR



*One of
these stars
belongs to me.
I'll do what I must to keep it Free!*

WARRIOR



News Of The
TEXAS MOTORCYCLE RIGHTS ASSOCIATION

IDENTIFICATION STATEMENT

The Lone Star Warrior is the state publication of the Texas Motorcycle Rights Association (TMRA2).
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DISCLAIMER

The Lone Star Warrior is the official publication of TMRA2 and accepts no responsibility for the comments or opinions contained in this publication.

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Donations to TMRA2 are not deductible for Federal income tax purposes.

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EDITORIAL GUIDELINES

You are encouraged to submit TMRA2 related events, letters, stories, articles, incident, discrimination, or harassment reports, poems, comments, humor, etc.

All items become the property of TMRA2. Please do not submit slanderous or accusing letters or profanity.

LONE STAR WARRIOR MATERIAL DEADLINE

The submission deadline for all material intended for publication in the Lone Star Warrior is the **11th** of each month.

Send Warrior material to:

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ADVERTISING RATES

Full page: \$50 issue/\$500 year

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Business card:

\$10 issue/\$100 year

TMRA2 and/or the Lone Star Warrior will not accept any advertising that discriminates against any type of motorcyclist.

Printed "camera ready" ads: full payment for all future Warrior issues must accompany the ad when submitted to the Publisher.

E-mail attachment ads: full payment for all future Warrior issues must be received by the Publisher before publication.

Non-TMRA2 event flyers are subject to the Warrior's advertising rates and space availability.

Event flyers will be published free if the organizer specifies in the ad:

that at least \$1.00 per paid admission will be donated to TMRA2

and/or

anyone who becomes a paid member of TMRA2 at the event receives free or reduced cost admission.

Advertising copy, contracts, and the advertisement order are subject to the Publisher's acceptance. Publisher reserves the right to reject or cancel any advertisement that does not conform to the editorial or graphic standards of TMRA2. Every effort will be made to comply with ad placement requests; final ad position is at the discretion of the Publisher. Cancellations or changes are not accepted after submission date. Publisher is not responsible for ad copy errors.

LONE STAR WARRIOR AD DEADLINE

The submission deadline for all ads for the Lone Star Warrior is the **11th** of each month.

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Senator: Teel Bivins (R)

Senator's name in **bold** indicates TMRA2 member

CHAPTER MEETING SCHEDULE

Revised: 01/14/04 08:47

1st Sunday – 1st Houston, South Houston
1st Tuesday – Austin Minutemen, Austin
1st Wednesday – Bad Company, Granbury
1st Wednesday – Big Spring, Big Spring
1st Wednesday – Panhandle, Amarillo
1st Thursday – Plainview, Plainview
1st Thursday – Conch Valley, San Angelo
1st Thursday – San Jacinto River, Kingwood

2nd Sunday – Heart of Texas, Axtell
2nd Tuesday – Big Country, Abilene
2nd Tuesday – Tri-County, Stamford
2nd Wednesday – D/FW, Dallas
2nd Saturday – 1st Brazoria County, Angleton

3rd Sunday – North Central, Wichita Falls
3rd Wednesday – El Paso, El Paso
3rd Wednesday – Tarrant County, Fort Worth
3rd Thursday – Liberty Riders, Harker Heights
3rd Thursday – Permian Basin, Midland
3rd Saturday – Independence Riders, Jacksonville

4th Tuesday – Cowtown, Fort Worth

Last Thursday – Lubbock, Levelland

CHAPTER INFORMATION listed by city

Big Country chapter meets the 2nd Tuesday @ 7:00 p.m. at American Legion Post 57, 302 S. 11th St., Abilene 79602, (915) 672-8348 Contact: Ron (915) 692-9389

Panhandle chapter meets the 1st Wednesday @ 7:00 p.m. at Italian Delights Inc., 2710 W. 10th Ave., Amarillo 79102, (806) 372-5444 Contact: Cody (806) 376-4804

1st Brazoria County chapter meets the 2nd Saturday @ 10:30 a.m. at Smithhart's County Seat Grill, 2440 N. Velasco St., Angleton 77515, (979) 848-1320 Contact: Frank (979) 964-3480 or Roddy Mohler (979) 233-1439

Austin Minutemen chapter meets the 1st Tuesday @ 7:30 p.m. at Vinny's Ten-O-Three Cafe, 1003 Barton Springs Rd., Austin 78704, (512) 482-8484 Contact: Glenn (512) 247-7689 nelglaid@aol.com

Heart of Texas chapter meets the 2nd Sunday @ 1:00 p.m. at Jim's Cycle Shop, Highway 31, Axtell 76624, (254) 863-5460 Contact: Jim (254) 863-5460

Big Spring chapter meets the 1st Wednesday @ 7:00 p.m. at La Posada Restaurant, 206 NW 4th St., Big Spring 79720, (915) 267-9112 Contact: The Blonde Bomber (915) 268-8766

D/FW chapter meets the 2nd Wednesday @ 7:30 p.m. at VFW Post 4477, 300 S. Smith St., Dallas 75211, (214) 339-5800 Contact: Elmer (972) 539-2302

El Paso chapter meets the 3rd Wednesday @ 7:00 p.m. at Luby's Cafeteria, 1010 Chelsea St., El Paso 79903, (915) 772-1345 Contact: Jerry Kelly (915) 433-8955

Cowtown chapter meets the 4th Tuesday @ 7:00 p.m. at American Legion Post 569, 400 W. Felix St., Fort Worth 76115, (817) 924-0931 Contact: James Scott (817) 531-3820

Tarrant County chapter meets the 3rd Wednesday @ 7:00 p.m. at American Legion Post 516, 6801 Manhattan Blvd., Fort Worth 76120, (817) 451-7222 Contact: Mike (817) 468-7328

Bad Company chapter meets the 1st Wednesday @ 7:00 p.m. at Grumps Restaurant, 3503 E. Hwy 377, Granbury 76049, (817) 573-5000 Contact: "Popeye" Richter (817) 597-9364

Liberty Riders chapter meets the 3rd Thursday @ 7:00 p.m. at Cutter's Texas Music Hall BBQ, 538 E. Veterans Memorial Blvd., Harker Heights 76548, (254) 953-1031 Contact: Grumpy (254) 518-6409 or (254) 681-1141

Independence Riders chapter meets the 3rd Saturday @ 12:00 noon at VFW Post 3984, Memorial Dr. & US69, Jacksonville 75766, (903) 586-1306 Contact: Tommy Wilson (903) 589-7888

San Jacinto River chapter meets the 1st Thursday @ 7:30 p.m. at Pop's Ice House, 22210 Loop 494, Kingwood 77339, (281) 359-7884 Contact: John C. Bridgeman (800) 632-8366

Lubbock chapter meets the last Thursday @ 7:00 p.m. at Aces & Eights Club House, 5608 Cactus, Levelland 79336, (806) 885-1515 Contact: Alan Noble (806) 747-9307, Terrence C. "TC" Harp (806) 780-7480 tchapl@cox.net, or Kristen Phelps 806-885-1515 gphelps@odsy.net

Permian Basin chapter meets the 3rd Thursday @ 7:30 p.m. at Warfield Restaurant, FM 1788 and I-20, Midland 79706, (915) 563-4900

Contact: Jan "Dumas" Walker 432-366-6432
itsdumas@netzero.net or Ed (915) 689-6050

1st Houston chapter meets the 1st Sunday @ 12:30 p.m. at High Noon Saloon, 2506 S. Houston Rd., South Houston 77502, (713) 944-6887

Contact: SA (713) 641-2123

Plainview chapter meets @ 7:00 p.m. the 1st Thursday at Nu-Griddle Cafe, 401 W. 5th St., Plainview 79072, (806) 296-6733

Contact: "Blackheart" (806) 296-2991, or Ben (806) 762-5625

Conch Valley chapter meets @ 7:30 p.m. the 1st Thursday at Pepe's Diner, 3618 W. FM2105, San Angelo 76901, (325) 655-5511

Contact: Broise (325) 657-9304 or Robert/Tonya (325) 655-4816

Tri-County chapter meets the 2nd Tuesday @ 7:00 p.m. at Bulldog Machine, 211 S. McKinley, Stamford 79553, (325) 773 - 3056

Contact: Larry or Susan (325) 773-5086

North Central chapter meets the 3rd Sunday @ 2:00 p.m. at Deli Planet, 4016 Burkburnett Rd., Wichita Falls 76306, (940) 855-1921

Contact: Mary Beth Looney (940) 855-9125
dodymiteandbeefus@peoplepc.com

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Gerald R. "Garry" Brookman

I implemented SBC Yahoo DSL on my second telephone line dedicated to the computer and fax. I have had Earthlink dialup since 1998. Earthlink furnishes a subscriber with an email address. I have never used this address or furnished it to anyone as a method of contact. All e-mails sent to the Earthlink email address is forwarded to my Yahoo email. In a recent seven- (7) day period, I received just over 1000 spam emails sent to my Earthlink email. The amount of spam has increased since the new Federal law became effective.

Be sure to read the news article "Does your boss want you dead?"

The Democrats are complaining on how long the war is taking but consider this:

It took less time to take Iraq than it took Janet Reno to take the Branch Davidian Compound (51 days)

It took less time to find Saddam's sons in Iraq than it took Hillary Clinton to find the Rose law firm billing records.

It took less time for the 3rd Infantry Division and the Marines to destroy the Medina Republican Guard than it took Teddy Kennedy to call the police after his Oldsmobile sunk at Chappaquiddick.

It took less time to take Iraq than it took to count the votes in Florida.

Our military is GREAT!

CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

Sputnik Strain

While trying to do Spring house cleaning at the office (again) I found some interesting facts that I had dug up a while back. Texas ranks right near the top with number of licensed riders. Comparing the number of members with other states we are near the bottom of the list. HOG has more members in one city than we have in the state. Comparing the budgets of other SMROs we are also at the bottom of the list.

In thirteen years, introducing 3-4 Bills each session we have passed all but two of our Bills. We have stopped several Bills that would have devastated bikers in this state and placed amendments on others to make them more palatable. Most of our members are State Delegates to their Party Convention, many are Pct. Chairs and 6 are state legislators, others hold local offices. Many of our members are farther from the Texas capitol than riders from Little Rock, Ark. - Baton Rouge, La. - Jackson, Miss. - and Oklahoma City, Ok... Topeka, Ks. and Santa Fe, NM are less than an hour farther. Despite this handicap, during our "Legislative Day" each session we get between 3000-5000 riders at the capitol on Monday.

Those Texas Riders who have chosen to become Warriors are indeed the finest riders in this or any state. It has been a fun and effective group and as your state chair I salute you.

The workshop in Big Spring went very well. There were several riders there who are not members and we hope they will choose to join. Many of our members in Howard county have filed to put their names on the Ballot as precinct chairs. Some are voter Registrars. Those Warriors have it on the ball. We can be very proud of their concentration on their work.

The three judge panel ruled the new congressional map was valid so your congressional districts may have changed. Of course the Democrats have filed an appeal but the new lines will hold up for this election.

State Senator Jane Nelson will be sworn in as Governor for a day on Saturday April 3rd. There will be an Inauguration ceremony including a barbecue and entertainment on the Capitol grounds. Schools in her district have been invited to take part in the ceremony. The public is invited to attend.

Your chairman was invited to speak at the Political Seminar conducted by KMA/KBA in Louisville, Ky. this past weekend. These Brothers and sisters have taken the Five Steps To Freedom and made it work for them. Their Lt. Governor, two state Senators and one state Rep

are members. They were all four present for the Seminar and we had our picture taken with each of them. Talking about issues that would be coming up in this session one Senator said "I can tell you there will be a Helmet Bill filed this session. I can also tell you, as chairman of the Transportation Committee, it is not going anywhere." Now that is what you call having clout? As many of you know I received a commission as a Kentucky Colonel when they passed their helmet law modification Bill and I asked if this meant I could fry chicken. I learned that was the highest honor bestowed on an individual by Kentucky. On this trip up they had Colonel Saunders on hand for a photo shoot with me to show me how to fry chicken. Over the years we have come to think of each other as Sister States.

Kentucky Riders have formed a good bond with President Bush. We were given a copy of Full Throttle Magazine containing an article about KMA/KBA members being cleared by the Secret Service to work security for an event for the president. We also received an 8x10 of the President holding up his gray and black Freedom Fighter shirt that has the WARNING sign on the front like the ones we had made. We were also given a pin from the event.

We shall be in Harker Heights at Cutters Music Hall for the Liberty Riders Chapter meeting on Thursday Jan. 15th. Saturday the 17th we will hold a workshop in Levelland at the Aces & Eights clubhouse and will be in Wichita Falls at the North Central Chapter meeting the next day.

Plans are under way to form a new chapter in District 5 to replace the Hill Country Chapter. Watch for details as soon as they are solidified.

A new chapter will be formed in McKinney on February 18th to serve the Collin County, Rockwall area and we will be there. Look for the Flyer in your Warrior. We will also attend a workshop in Tarrant County on Feb. 21st. Yet another workshop will be held by the D/FW chapter and the Denton ABATE Chapter jointly. We are all doing the best we can to make this a banner year. There will be rights leaders from other states attending the State Party Conventions this year to see the Five Steps at work. Please make every effort to show them that Texas Warriors are still very active in the political arena. I am counting on having more delegates at both conventions than ever before. It is up to you as an individual to make this happen. Without you doing your part we can never win. Again PLEASE become a delegate this year.

Once again Motorcycle Specialties has sent in a Bronze Supporter Membership. Those of you in the Abilene area

be sure to let Jerry and Lisa White know how much you appreciate their support from day one.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Marine Corps Birthday

TO THE EDITOR:

A photo was recently published of Marines bowing their heads. That's because they're praying. The photo was taken at a recent ceremony honoring the birthday of the Marine Corps, and it has the ACLU up in arms.

"These are federal employees," says Lucius Traveler, a spokesman for the ACLU, "on federal property and on federal time. For them to pray is clearly an establishment of religion, and we must nip this in the bud immediately."

When asked about the ACLU's charges, Colonel Jack Fessender, speaking for the Commandant of the Corps said (cleaned up a bit), "Screw the ACLU."

Al McMahan

Five Steps to Freedom

TO THE EDITOR:

It's that time of year; the political season is here. Most of you know the routine, but this is info that bears repeating. Below are the beginning steps for the precinct process:

STEP ONE: Get Registered to Vote by February 9th.

STEP TWO: Vote in the Primary elections in March (March 9th), either Democratic or Republican. Look at your voter registration card for your Precinct Number, it's found in the box next to your birthday, labeled Prec. N. (Pct. Num.). Polling places are in the newspaper, the party headquarters, or call the County Clerks office. The polls are open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., or watch your newspapers for the times and places for early voting.

STEP THREE: At 7:15 p.m., fifteen minutes after the polls close, your precinct will have a meeting at your polling place. Be there before 7:00 or you may not be allowed into the polling place after the polls are closed and the doors are locked. If you can't be there for the meeting, let someone in your precinct know that you want to be a delegate or alternate. You do not have to be present at your precinct meeting to become a delegate or alternate, however you do have to have voted.

STEP FOUR: At the Precinct meeting, have your resolutions ready to present. Make sure you have extra copies for people to read and take with them. If you need copies of the resolutions, they will probably be in the newsletters or contact a state or local SMRO officer.

STEP FIVE: See you at the County Convention. The party that you voted with will send you notification of the time and place.

This fight isn't over, we need to wind up again for the election year. We need to get some Representatives and Senators in there to help us in the next legislative session to make our job that much easier.

It's very important that we stay with the process, cause if we don't, we'll be right back to wearing the lid.

Thank you for your time!!! I'll see you at the County Convention.

Elmer H. McKeegan

NEWSARTICLES

Does your boss want you dead?

'Dead peasants' insurance pays your employer a secret, tax-free windfall when you die. Insurers have sold millions of policies to companies such as Dow Chemical.

Right now, your company could have a life insurance policy on you that you know nothing about. When you die -- perhaps years after you leave your employer -- the tax-free proceeds from this policy wouldn't go to your family. The money would go to the company.

What's more, the company might use this policy to pay for retirement benefits and other perks not for you or your fellow workers, but for your company's top executives.

Sound outrageous? Such corporate-owned life insurance is also big business:

Companies pay a whopping \$8 billion in premiums each year for such coverage, according to the American Council of Life Insurers, a trade group.

The policies make up more than 20% of the all the life insurance sold each year.

Companies expect to reap more than \$9 billion in tax breaks from these policies over the next five years. The policies are treated as whole life policies. So, companies can borrow against the policies and write off the interest. And the death benefits are tax-free.

Hundreds of companies -- including Dow Chemical, Procter & Gamble, Wal-Mart, Walt Disney and Winn-Dixie -- have purchased this insurance on more than 6 million rank-and-file workers.

These policies, nicknamed "dead janitors" or "dead peasants" insurance, soared in popularity after many states cleared the way for them in the 1980s. Congress recently tried to crack down on the practice, to the howls of the insurance industry -- which earlier this year managed to derail reforms.

The policies have generated lawsuits by survivors who got little or nothing when insured workers died. A couple of examples:

Jane St. John had two children and was pregnant with a third when her husband, a butcher at a Winn-Dixie store, was killed in an auto accident. When the Killeen, Texas, woman called the company to ask about insurance, she

said she was told about a \$17,500 policy to which she was entitled. St. John said Winn-Dixie told her nothing about the \$102,000 the company collected from a corporate-owned policy on his life. She found out about it this summer, eight years after his death, from a lawyer who researched court records. The idea that the company would secretly insure lives, and then not share the benefits with the families, "is sick," she said. "That is creepy."

Mike Rice was a 48-year-old assistant manager when he died of a massive heart attack at the Wal-Mart store in Tilton, NH. His widow, Vicki, became the lead plaintiff in a class-action lawsuit against the company after she discovered Wal-Mart collected \$300,000 from a life insurance policy it owned on him. Vicki Rice believes job-related stress contributed to the heart attack and says it is "totally immoral" for Wal-Mart to profit from his death.

"In a lot of circumstances, the families don't get anything," said attorney Mike Myers of Houston's McClanahan & Clearman, which represents survivors suing companies over corporate-owned policies. "The company tries its hardest to keep the policy a secret."

Labor leaders and some lawmakers have denounced the policies as "unjust" and "repulsive." The companies say profits from the policies can help offset the increased cost of employee benefits and enhance the businesses' bottom lines.

Corporate-owned life insurance actually comes in two flavors:

Executive or "key person" policies that insure the lives of top executives. This coverage has been around for decades and has a clear business purpose, since losing the expertise, knowledge and contacts of top managers can be financially devastating for companies.

Broad-based or "janitors" policies that insure rank-and-file workers. Here the purpose is basically profit. The life insurance proceeds are tax-free. The policies have an investment component that allows companies to earn tax-deferred returns while the employee is still alive. And, of course, companies can take out tax-free loans on the policies. All these gains and income are used to fund operations, pay for executive compensation or boost other benefits.

No one knows how many corporate-owned policies are issued on executives versus rank-and-file workers. Wal-Mart alone had taken out about 350,000 such policies between 1993 and 1996. Nestle USA had policies on

18,000 workers in 2002, The Wall Street Journal reported. Enron had \$500 million in policies on workers.

Sales of the policies came to a virtual standstill in September 2003, according to the insurer trade group ACLI, when the Senate Finance Committee approved legislation that would have taxed payouts made to companies if the employee had left more than a year earlier. That indicates that most policies aren't being sold to protect companies financially against the loss of key current employees.

Strong insurance industry protests led the powerful committee to reconsider its action. Further work on the issue has been postponed until 2004, and indications are that the senators are "softening" on the idea of greatly restricting the policies, said Jack Dolan, ACLI spokesman.

Companies insist that janitors policies have a legitimate business function, but the IRS has been cracking down, arguing that many of the arrangements are nothing more than tax shelters. The agency has been particularly harsh on once-popular "leveraged" policies, in which policy loans were used to pay premiums. In the mid-1990s, the tax agency began disallowing billions of dollars in interest payment deductions the companies had been taking on such loans. Companies' efforts to defend their programs have been largely unsuccessful; a U.S. Tax Court judge called Winn-Dixie's program "a sham," saying it "lacked economic substance and business purpose."

The controversy helped convince Walt Disney and Wal-Mart, among others, to drop the policies. Winn-Dixie battled the IRS in court, but the supermarket chain recently lost its final round when the Supreme Court refused to review a lower court decision that backed the IRS.

So far, one company has prevailed against the IRS -- Dow Chemical, which took out the policies on more than 21,000 workers. A U.S. District Court in the Eastern District of Michigan ordered the IRS to return \$22.2 million plus interest to the company. The IRS has appealed the ruling.

Survivors' lawsuits, meanwhile, typically focus on two issues:

Whether the companies had an "insurable interest" in their employees' lives.

Whether the companies were required to get the employees' permission for the policies.

"Insurable interest" is usually a big deal for insurers. They want to make sure whoever is buying life insurance doesn't have an incentive for bumping off the insured. Insurers usually require purchasers have a strong familial or emotional connection to the people being insured, or that they would suffer significant financial losses if the insured people died.

(It's that latter standard that was loosened in the 1980s, making it easier for companies to buy policies for all their employees, not just key executives.)

Most states also have "advise and consent" laws that technically require companies to get workers' permission before buying life insurance on them. But attorney Myers said many businesses circumvent these laws by purchasing the insurance in one of the states that doesn't require notice or consent, including Delaware, Georgia, New Jersey, North Carolina, Pennsylvania and Vermont.

"Executives fly to Atlanta to meet with the insurance company and its brokers, sign some papers, get on their respective corporate jets and fly home," Myers said.

Other companies offered their workers small policies -- typically \$5,000 to \$10,000 -- as an incentive to allow larger corporate-owned policies to be issued on the workers' lives. The small policies can later be canceled, even if the company keeps up the premiums on the other insurance.

Anger about these practices likely will keep the heat on Congress to make some reforms. It's possible that lawmakers will restrict severely companies' ability to write the policies on rank-and-file workers. At the very least, companies probably will have to get workers' consent before buying any new policies and clearly disclose that the coverage may extend past the time they leave the company, the ACLI's Dolan said.

But he rejected the idea that corporate-owned life insurance was immoral or a company bet against its workers.

"It's an important business planning tool," Dolan said. "Companies are using it for extremely valid reasons."

THANKS FOR December, 2003

Iron Riders M/C - \$125
Cody Moulton - \$20
Larry Jolly - \$20
El Paso chapter - \$172
El Paso chapter - \$100
El Paso chapter - \$100
Permian Basin chapter - \$100
1st Brazoria chapter - \$300
South Texas COC - \$100
George & Carolyn Tamplen - \$60
Bad Country chapter - \$51
DFW chapter - \$100
Tarrant County chapter - \$100
Cherokee Wind Warriors - \$1500
Del Rio Gypsy M/C - \$300
Motorcycle Specialties - \$250+
Davy Crockett Riders - \$250+

CHAPTER REPORTS

Austin Minutemen chapter minutes for December 2, 2003

The meeting was called to order by Glenn Dial at 7:35 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance. We had 50 members attending.

Austin Minutemen has the highest attendance of any chapter, and we are working on new memberships. It was moved and seconded that we send \$100.00 to the State office.

Glenn informed us of the workshops that Sputnik is doing to educate bikers on the procedures to becoming delegates at the state conventions this coming year. We would like one in our area after the first of the year. Batman said that we need to become politicians to fight back on their own terms. Steven said that the reason we meet and formed TMRAII was to take back the legislature, to write laws that are friendly to all of us. We have the opportunity to shape the destiny of Texas.

The pro-motorcycle insurance bill passed committee. It is S423. We want this passed. Insurance will have to pay out if we are in a motorcycle accident.

Glenn pointed out that we don't have to show a sticker to prove that we are helmet-less legally, but you CAN pick one up at the DPS for \$5 (for all those misinformed law enforcement folks out there).

Kay Bailey Hutchinson voted against the pay raise, even though it passed.

It seems that most of our Legislature has only been concerned with keeping their jobs, not our rights. A perfect example was this last session and the arguments over re-districting. It has become nothing more than a bi-partisan fight.

Oh, and guess what! Almost 90% of Harley-Davidson's sales have nothing to do with motorcycles. (They make their money in general merchandise) Their prices are so high that they are cutting out the younger market. And since they have sided with the EPA and are going to put radiators on their bikes, they won't be any different from the "other" bikes.

Everyone call Texas DOT and request the "Watch for Bikes" and "Share the Road" signs that are now available.

Glenn is going to nominate Sputnik for the Hall of Fame in Sturgis. The deadline is January 12, 2004. Don't tell Sputnik!

Upcoming runs were discussed.

Steven T. won the 50/50 and donated his share back. Austin Minutemen collected \$36. Thanks Steven. Our account has \$621.01.

Steve adjourned the meeting at 8:25 with prayer. The next meeting will be January 6, 2004 at Vinny's.

Nanette Townsend

Conch Valley chapter minutes for December 4, 2003

Hello from San Angelo! Happy holidays to all.

The meeting was called to order and opened with the pledge of allegiance and a prayer.

The first order of business was a vote to change next months meeting to the 8th due to the holidays. From there we went on to discuss some of the new legislation passed regarding being charged with DUI while your children are with you. You may be charged with endangering your child. The proper procedures for yielding to an emergency vehicle was also discussed.

Following the reading of the treasury report we were graced with Sputniks shining countenance and listened to him speak on the mission and goals of the organization. I would expand on this but I'm sure that everyone else is aware of this already. I would also like to extend a welcome to our 4 new members.

Goodbye for now and good riding.

DFW chapter minutes for December 10, 2003

Meeting was called to order.

We have several guests at our meeting so we wanted to quickly go over business and intro our guest speakers.

The treasurer's report was read and accepted.

Motion made and accepted to send the monthly donation to the state treasurer.

Update of the November General Membership meeting as follows.

There was a low attendance for this meeting. Still we were able to raise \$110 from selling our products and that money was donated back to the State fund. Some of the items talked about was to get out and ask clubs to add that \$1 of support for TMRA2 when they have their events. That additional 1 dollar from each person would mean a lot to keeping our organization running.

When calling the State Office or anyone for that matter, say your phone number clearly when you are leaving messages, too many people can't be responded to, because the phone number was not understood.

When sending email messages it would be best if TMRA2 was in the subject line. There are too many spammers out there and this would help let us know what is our business and what maybe spam.

The membership voted to eliminate the November general membership meetings. It is hoped that we may be able to put on an open public event for the May General membership meeting that could increase membership.

Legislative Workshops are currently going on and there should be couple in the DFW area. We will plan a chapter workshop for the January meeting. This workshop will get you up to speed as to how to become a delegate. It should include instructions on how to fill out the paperwork.

Senator Bill Ratcliff has resigned and a special election will be coming up on Tuesday, January 20th, 2004. It is a call to arms that we get Paul Sadler elected to that position. We need to show the State that the out of control government must stop. Mr. Sadler's campaign manager is Bill Brannon and can be reached on his cell at 903-926-1200; at work 903-938-8386; or at the campaign headquarters 903-938-8822. It is immensely important that all concerned citizens, especially TMRA2 members, call and arrange to spend some time and effort with this campaign.

Rep. Steve Wollens (Dallas 103rd) and Senator Bivens (SD31) has resigned also. We need to stay involved to get the right people back in these positions.

School finance is coming up soon. There will probably be a fourth special session to be called in April. The School Finance committee is looking for ways to raise money to replace the Robin Hood finance system and to supposedly cut local property taxes.

They are looking at all kinds of taxes including a \$1.00 a pack on cigarettes along with other sin taxes, a State Income Tax and get this {A STATE PROPERTY TAX!!}

This shows why it is necessary to pay close attention to what politicians are saying. Note: they didn't say they would cut property taxes. They only said they plan to cut LOCAL property taxes. This plan would require a constitutional amendment. Unfortunately most citizens would probably vote to approve it. With all the cutbacks to the local communities from our last legislative session, I'm sure the local government will lower property taxes, aren't you?

Our governor has wasted no time jumping on the internet tax. If we Texans order anything from a company that has any ties to Texas then the purchaser is responsible for the sales tax on that item. They are trying to figure a way to co-ordinate with other states to collect sales tax on purchases on the internet and send the tax money to that state if the other states will reciprocate. Looks like we will have a full plate of battles for the next session.

After only five hours of deliberation, a jury Dec 8th found Rep. William Janklow (R-SD) guilty of second-degree manslaughter, reckless driving, running a stop sign and speeding for his August 16 crash that resulted in the death of motorcyclist Randy Scott. In light of his conviction, Janklow has prepared a letter to submit to House Speaker Dennis Hastert today stating that he intends to resign from the House of Representatives effective January 20, 2004 - the same day that he will be sentenced on his manslaughter conviction. South Dakota will hold a special election during its June 1, 2004 primary to fill the remainder of Janklow's term.

We invited our guests to speak. Since Bill Walker was the man to setup this event I had him introduce our guests.

Jim Foster, candidate for Dallas County Sheriff.

Mike Dupree, Chief Constable for one of the largest precincts in the state.

Tommy Smelser, Vice Chair of the Texas Democratic Veterans Association.

Roberto Alonzo, State Representative District 104.

Jim Foster spoke first and told us of his intent to run for Dallas County Sheriff. He gave us his speech of what changes needed to be made and how he was going to be the man to make it happen. He mentioned the county's current legal problems and that the only way the Sheriff's department was going to be fixed is to eliminate the current administration. With members in our group familiar with law enforcement issues we asked several questions of Jim and had a general conversation of what he saw as the main issues with Dallas County Sheriff. His website is <http://www.dallascountysheriff.us/> Phone 214-942-2119

Rep Roberto Alonzo spoke to us about issues close to him and what had happened during the House Democrat split to Oklahoma. Roberto provided for a general back and forth comment and question session that allowed everyone to participate. Roberto agreed how the Democratic Party had become splintered and needed to get back to the core of their constituents beliefs. He mentioned the Fort Worth rally and how he was impressed with Sputnik's speech and hoped the party would take hold of those ideas. Unfortunately Roberto had to leave after his speech. His website is <http://www.alonzocampaign.com/> Phone 214-943-8683

Mike Dupree spoke and although he is not running for any office at this time, he wanted to come down and show his support of these candidates. He told us of his duties as Chief Constable of a precinct in Dallas County and his feelings on the current problems of the Democratic Party. We were given a history lesson of the financial problems (20 million shortfall) of Dallas County. Originally there were 8 precincts in Dallas County. After a few run ins with the County Commissioners, the County Commissioners felt that by eliminating 3 districts they could get rid of the Democratic Chiefs causing problems. Mike Dupree won his elected seat back and has maintained the highest rated precinct. Conversation with Mike Dupree went on a long time. He was willing to talk to anyone about anything.

Tommy Smelser came to ask for help in getting Paul Sadler elected in SD 1. He wants to make sure that Veterans Groups and TMRA II are closely aligned from now on. It was pointed out that in the past we made several efforts to involve vets with our group, since a lot of our meetings occur at their posts. However we were met with thanks but not right now. Tommy said that will change, vets will need to get involved or there will not be any programs left in this state for them. He said he was going to make sure that vets organizations start pushing more into politics. He pointed out how the republicans won over the state. He said they did it little

by little with republicans taking positions in city councils, board of education, gradually getting more positions in state and federal governments. The Five Steps of Freedom were then shown to demonstrate TMRA II's desire to get people to work in that direction. He told us that after Sputnik's Fort Worth speech he joined TMRA II because he wanted to be a working part of the organization that would bring the Democratic Party back in line.

Unfortunately with an open forum and several speakers we did take too much time. Some people had to leave, but most were able to stay and did so. The meeting started at 7:30 and was ended at 10pm. However most everyone stayed till 11pm to talk more about what changes needed to happen. All in all this was probably one of the best meetings we've had in a long time. The speakers were great and the group participation was tremendous.

I want to again Thank Bill Walker for getting these people out to our meeting. He arranged all this in a couple of days with no help from me or anyone else.

Garry Brookman was there to tell us about the next Warrior. Sorry we didn't get to hear from you Garry, hope to see you next time.

We would like to thank everyone for coming out to the meeting. We hope to see y'all again next time. The next meeting will be back at the VFW Post #4477.

Elmer H. McKeegan
Chapter Coordinator

El Paso chapter minutes for December 17, 2003

Meeting was called to order by Glen. The Pledge of Allegiance was said by all.

We spoke about incident reports. One of our members that works for the El Paso Police Department informed us that he had submitted the question of where the incident reports should be faxed to. He stated that as soon as he found out he would notify us.

A suggestion was brought up that maybe we should fax a copy of the incident reports to the Mayor and the City Council Members also.

We were also informed that there is no law referring to side by side riding.

Jerry informed everyone about the letter that he wrote to Sputnik and read to us the responses that he had received.

Tavo from the Maltese Knights brought in 20 new members.

It was discussed about moving our meeting place. Members are going to start looking for a new location. As soon as we find a new place we will inform everybody of the address.

Next meeting is January 21, 2004 at Luby's Restaurant, Chelsea & Trowbridge at 7:00 p.m

May everyone have a safe Christmas and a joyous New Year.

Debbie Rios

Heart of Texas chapter minutes for December 14, 2003

I arrived today (Sunday, December 14, 2003), late to the meeting (Rick would say "As usual"). I lost the belt off my Sidecar Rig in West, Texas on the way to Jim's Cycle Shop for the meeting (that's a good excuse for me). I made a call to some members that I figured were on their way to the meeting, and then a call to Jim's Cycle Shop (this is on a Sunday), and before long, someone was on their way (with a trailer). I made it to the meeting (somewhat late, i.e. 1:30pm), and hear is what took place.

Our Chapter Secretary, Susan Williams, asked if I would submit reports for the chapter meetings and I was glad to help out. She is going to be spending some extra time making PERSONAL phone calls to EACH H.O.T.

member to invite you to the next meeting and find out why you have not been able to make it to a meeting lately. Yes, we had to start playing dirty to get you to the meetings (not really). So... be expecting that phone call, but don't waste too much time thinking up excuses (unless you don't know Susan ;-)

We discussed the possibility of TMRA2 holding their yearly May meeting at Jim's Cycle Shop. This subject was raised at the recent State meeting in Hico to present to the H.O.T. Chapter. The Chapter was in favor of the proposal, and Jim's Cycle Shop was 100% behind it. There were motions raised and 2nds seconded, and questions were presented to the District Advisor to clarify with the State Office. If all the answers come back on the positive side, an announcement will be made.

The Heart of Texas Chapter is having a SHOTGUN raffle for a fundraiser. As soon as the tickets are printed, a flyer will be submitted to the Warrior. The Shotgun winner will be drawn and announced at the May meeting. Tickets will be available at Jim's Cycle Shop or from any H.O.T. member. The shotgun has not been purchased yet, but the chapter voted on purchasing a Mossberg 12 gauge pump. It will be on display at Jim's Cycle Shop until the drawing.

The meeting was all open discussion with the District Advisor (me) updating the membership on the State meeting, the chapter hosting the May meeting, and the new chapter forming in Granbury (meetings are 1st Saturday of the month at 7pm). There were 7 members present at the H.O.T. meeting, and the meeting broke up around 2:30pm.

The next chapter meeting will be held on Sunday, January 11th at 1pm at Jim's Cycle Shop in Axtell. Come on out and bring someone with you.

Ride Free!
Greg

Panhandle chapter minutes for December 3, 2003

Surprise! The Panhandle Chapter has not died....we've had meetings every month. But, with only 3 to 5 people showing up each month, we haven't bothered to send in any Chapter reports. In fact, last month I had to be out of town & Larry was moving and we both thought the other would be at the meeting but neither of us showed. Well, wouldn't you know, that's the day 9 Iron Riders from Borger attended to give some money to the Organization. When Curt from Italian Delights called, Larry told him we would have our next meeting in Borger to pay back those guys that froze riding to Amarillo. So we planned to hold the December meeting at the Iron Riders Clubhouse in Borger.

The meeting started at 7:30pm with 21-25 people present. Larry explained the different jobs of TMRAII and C.O.C. - you know, the legislative and judicial routes to the same end. He told them the importance of having a few members also join MRF in order to receive their newsletter. Crash had asked us to bring some membership forms. We brought a bunch of the TMRAII information booklets and most of the club members were filling out forms when we left. We talked about how hard it is to attend committee meetings in Austin and decided that if we couldn't do anything else, we would try to raise more money and write more letters. With that being said, the Iron Riders presented us with \$125.00 from their toy run. We then had a question and answer session that included who to write and what to write about, new laws coming up and the loss of Teel Bivins as a representative from the Panhandle. Larry and I then left so they could have their monthly Club meeting.

Thanks for all the beer, Crash, and sorry we lost you, Steve.

See ya on the blacktop -
Commander Cody

Tarrant County chapter minutes for December 17, 2003

7:10 p.m. call to order roll call 12 members present

Michael Hux gave the invocation. we all said the pledge of allegiance.

Last months minutes were read by Sassy. A motion was made and accepted. She also gave the treasurers report. A motion was made and accepted.

This will be my last report as secretary even though I will still be the treasurer. I said I was stepping down but it didn't quite work out that way! Double B is now co chair, History is the secretary, Dancer is still the chair and I am the treasurer.

Mike reported only one volunteer showed up at the bike show in Dallas out of 9 that said they would be there.

Mike also stated we need some republication info so we can get word word out.

The workshop will be in February. No date yet. He also stated Sputnik has been doing a lot of traveling around the state. There are quite a few new chapters starting up. He still wants us to work the campaign phone banks.

Garry Brookman reported the by-laws are in the new Warrior.

Mike requested that our chapter to help out financially for the political workshop.

We voted and approved the motion. Michael Hux volunteered to donate as much as \$1000 if need be.

Meeting adjourned 7:55 p.m.

Sincerely, Sassy

DISTRICT ADVISOR REPORTS

#22 – Greg Bodovsky

I followed up the discussion we had in Hico about the May meeting, at the H.O.T. meeting (which was Sunday, December 14th) I told the members that there was a general consensus that Jim's would be a GREAT place to have it, and I said that I would follow up with Sputnik. Sputnik said if the Advisors approved it, that it would be so.

I attended the January meeting today, (Sunday, January 11th). Originally we were gonna go for Memorial Day weekend, but it was decided that we would get more attendance (and raise more money), if we were NOT competing with other functions. Since the TMRA2 Membership meeting was already on the calendar as being held May 15th, we are shooting for that date. Speaking of shooting, The H.O.T. chapter is going to raffle off a shotgun at the May meeting. Tickets will be printed up and distributed at the February meeting and/or will be available at Jim's, as will the shotgun. A flyer will be sent to the Warrior.

Jim's TMRA2 May Bash (if that name sticks) is going to be YOUR rally, so please don't hesitate to share your skills and ideas. All the proceeds will be going to TMRA2 AND we get to promote TMRA2 & educate more bikers.

I attended another (possible) Chapter Organizing meeting in Granbury on 1/7 at Grumps Restaurant. This looks like a good potential to be a new chapter. They already have a regular "Bike Night" meeting on the 1st Wednesday every month and had a good crowd that night. There were very few current TMRA2 members, but many more showed interest in getting involved. If this sounds like a good location for you to go to meetings, you're in the area, or you know someone that would benefit, here is the info:

Grumps Restaurant, 3503 E. Hwy. 377, Granbury 76049, 817-573-5000. Contact Jesse "Popeye" Richter at 817-597-9364 for more information.

As always, I look forward to hearing from you and my contact information is on the officer's page. My email address is hdriider@htcomp.net.

#24 – Ron Ashmore

Lenny Testa, Lynn Smith, Darrell Mitchell and myself have filed for Republican Precinct Chairman and others will no doubt, pick up the position in March. All will be delegates at the convention.

We have visited with some clubs to see how we can best get them involved in the political process and have ask if it might work for each club to have a liaison type person to bring information to them or if we continue to go to their meetings with updates. We hope to have their input soon and then try to get more participation.

Looks like the Re-districting is behind us and remains as the Republicans made it. This will have 5 chapters in one District which will give us awesome strength at the Convention District Caucus meetings. We only have to get some Delegates to show up. I look forward to working with Del to coordinate our efforts with Chapters up north.

Already, we have met with a couple of new candidates who want to get to know us and gain our support. We have made know our goals to them and are studying them to see which to support.

Looking forward to the fight again this session.

#31 – Dean Maltsberger

Okay, guys and gals...here are the issues we will need to address with our candidates for office in 2004- - especially those candidates running for District 31 State Senator.

Our resolutions for next year will be:

1. Legislation that would require insurance companies that have collected premiums from individuals to pay claims filed by those individuals for injuries sustained in lawful activities. As it is now, because of loopholes in the HIPAA some insurance companies, after collecting premiums, are refusing to pay for injuries sustained in motorcycle collisions, even though the rider was not at fault in the crash.
2. The majority of those killed in motorcycle/auto crashes die because the auto driver failed to yield right-of-way to a motorcycle, turning left in front of an oncoming motorcycle. The "I didn't see him" story is of little consolation to those who have lost a family member. The fact that a traffic ticket was issued is proof that an offense was committed. Since the courts have shown indifference to punishment for this offense we will seek to take the punishment out of the hands of the soft judges by passing legislation that will read, "If a person fails to yield right of way, and as a result of that offense, a person is seriously injured or killed, the person who committed the offense will face a mandatory minimum jail term of not less that 30 days." It is time to require responsibility of all who drive.

As for the candidates for the District 31 Senate seat, we need to know if they will support an equal access bill that would bar businesses from discriminating against a person because of mode of transportation or manner of dress, with the understanding that the person's clothing is appropriate for the occasion. Most important is that we can count on the candidate to be honest with us and do what he has told us he will do, even in the event of political leverage from other elected officials.

Specifically, we need someone who has the moral integrity to stand up to Governor Perry and do what he has committed to do, even when threatened by the Governor. In the last session, we had committed chairs and all committee members stating that they would support some of our issues in order to get them to the floor, only to have the issues held back by committee chairs so they would not go to committee for a vote, this happening after the committee chair was threatened politically by Perry. We had the votes to bring issues out of committee to the floor, and we had enough votes to pass the issues on the floor once there. This was Perry's way of dealing with the bills in order to avoid being exposed for not supporting the equal access issue. And, yes, we had enough votes committed to over-ride his veto. We need a person in this senate seat who will be honest with us, do what he says he will do, and not be intimidated by Perry. **ALSO, I MADE A BIG BOO-BOO. THIS SENATORIAL ELECTION WILL BE HELD ON Tuesday, January 20, 2004, NOT ON THE MARCH PRIMARY AS I HAD SAID. PLEASE CONTACT THE CANDIDATES ASAP AND GET BACK TO ME OR ED DAILING SO WE CAN MAKE PUBLIC YOUR FINDINGS BEFORE THE ELECTION. WE MUST BE EDUCATED ON THE CANDIDATES BEFORE THE ELECTION.**

There it is. You have the issues. Pass this info along to all who ride, especially members of the Rights Association. Ed Dailing and I will be going to Big Spring for their political forum on Jan. 5. Meeting will be at American Legion hall at 2:00PM. If you can go, let me know and we can ride over together. Permian Basin Chapter of Rights Association will have their political forum at their January meeting, Jan 16 at Warfield Truck Stop Restaurant at 7:00PM. Please make every effort to be there and bring all those you know who ride. If we fail to put the right person in the state senate, we will have grief for several years, and nobody to blame but ourselves. Have you done all you can do?

Ride Safe and sober

TMRA2 Major Contributors

Revised: 01/14/04 08:47

SUPPORTER - \$100 or more

Jim "Preacher" Ball 07/04
In memory of Al Coburn 08/04
Glenn "Clem" Dial 05/04
In memory of Nick DeLaCruz
Richard "Big Dog" Henry 05/04
Larry Jolly 04/04
Tim Moore 10/04
Walt Mosby 01/05
Cody Moulton 04/04
Beulah Ott 07/04
Tom and Tinker Rees 08/04
Jerry Suttle 05/04
Carrol L. Van Cleave 08/04
Dennis "D-Man" Williamson 07/04

Armadillo Cycle Club 09/04
Bikers Against Child Abuse – Lubbock 06/04
Companeros M/C 03/04
Cossacks M/C 12/03
Dreamer BFMC 01/04
Gypsy M/C, Big D 05/04
Iron Riders M/C 12/04
LaFeria Gypsy M/C 06/04
Los Canales M/C 02/04
Lost Prairie Cycles 08/04
South Texas COC 12/04

BRONZE - \$250 or more

Elmer McKeegan 11/04
Mad Mike & Brenda
Gideon & Jan Jones 10/04
George & Carolyn Tamplen 09/04
Aces & Eights M/C 09/04
Branch Gypsy M/C 11/04
Calallen Gypsy M/C 01/04
Davy Crockett Riders 12/04
Del Rio Gypsy M/C 12/04
Denton ABATE 01/05
Motorcycle Specialties 12/04
Sawmill Town Intl. Trade 02/04
Texas Bikers News 08/04
The Wichita Falls Crew 02/04

SILVER - \$500 or more

Lone Star BMW/Triumph 05/04
San Jacinto High Rollers M/C (National) 12/03
T-Twisters M/C 07/05

GOLD - \$1000 or more

The Brownswords
G&N Scooter Shack 07/04
Texas Motorcycle Roadriders Association 05/04
In memory of Cyndi Calhoun

PLATINUM - \$1500 or more

Alamo City Gypsy M/C 06/04
Mark Brandon/DFW Marketing 07/04
Cherokee Wind Warriors – 12/04
East Texas Chopper Guys 07/04
NW Texas COC 10/05

Lone Star Warrior Advertisers

Lost Prairie Cycles – Supporter - 08/04
Sawmill Town Intl. Trade – Bronze - 02/04
DFW Marketing – Platinum – 09/04